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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 6:50 AM
To: Spurling, Norman
Cc: Panger, Melissa
Subject: FW: Loss report for turkey vulture in Alameda County
Attachments: P2760.pdf

Hi Norman,

This is the first of three incident reports we received from California yesterday.

Bob

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:57 PM
To: County Ag Commissioner, Alameda; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Miller, Robert; Kratville, David@CDFA
Subject: Loss report for turkey vulture in Alameda County

Hello, Please find attached a loss report for a turkey vulture in Alameda County. If you have any question, please contact me.

Stella

Stella McMillin
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Office 916-358-2954
Cell 916-531-9683

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2760
N Number N14-041
CAHFS D1401343

Date of loss: January 25, 2014
Species: Turkey vulture
Listing status: No special status

To: **Dennis Bray,**
Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: March 25, 2014

Remarks
Investigation of loss of turkey vulture from Lindsay Wildlife Hospital in Alameda County.

Background

A turkey vulture, *Cathartes aura*, was found by city law enforcement on the side of the road alive and with no visible injuries but was not responsive to being handled on January 9, 2014 on Clovewood Drive in Pleasanton. The vulture was taken to Lindsay Wildlife Hospital that day where it was observed to have open-mouth breathing and a droopy left wing. Radiology revealed two metallic objects in its digestive tract. Blood samples were submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory and contained 14 ppm lead. Lead intoxication is indicated at 0.35 ppm and above. The bird was given supportive care until January 24 when it was found dead. It was frozen before submission to DFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine cause of death.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The vulture was submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis for full necropsy. The vulture was found to be an adult male in fair nutritional condition. The subcutaneous area was tinged orange and the lungs were partially covered with fungal plaques. Cultures from lung swabs had growth of fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Avian influenza and West Nile Virus tests were negative. Lead was detected in the liver at 3.5 ppm and 28 ppm in the bone tissue. Toxic levels of lead are expected above 4 ppm in the liver. Liver tissue was also submitted for anticoagulant rodenticide analysis. Brodifacoum was detected at 0.45 ppm. No other anticoagulant rodenticide was detected.

The cause of death of this turkey vulture was thought to be systemic aspergillosis caused by immunosuppression. It is likely that lead and anticoagulant exposure both contributed to immunosuppression.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Approved

Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Cc: **Rich Bireley,**
DPR Registration

Dr. Debbie Daniels,
DPR Registration

Robert Miller,
USEPA

David Kratville,
CDFA